Representation of farmers/workers on the Expert Committee on Tobacco

1789. SHRI MOHAN BABU:
SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers and farmers have not been included in the Expert Committee on Tobacco;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to include farmers and workers in this Expert Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The Expert Committee has been set up to make an economic study of the impact of tobacco consumption. As such in order to provide an opportunity to the representatives of farmers and tobacco growers associations, trade unions and becdi industry associations to express their views on the proposed legislation which seeks inter-alia "to ban the advertisement of tobacco products and regulate the labelling thereof, an order has been issued inviting them to present their views before the Deputy Director General of Health Services, Government of India, who would assimilate the same and bring to the notice of the Government.

Agreement with China on withdrawal of Forces

1790. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have come to some understanding with China on withdrawal of defence personnel in the Eastern Sector and if so, what are the specific points agreed upon;

(b) what are the cumulative conclusions after the Eighth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group with reference to border posts; and

(c) whether any progress has been made about the Chinese withdrawal from the territory occupied in tlie Western Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE) (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) On the basis of agreement reached between India and China in the Eighth meeting of the Joint Working Group in August 1995, the two sides agreed to pull back four posts, two by each side, located in immediate proximity in the Sumdorong Chu Valley (Wangdung. area) in the Eastern Sector. The withdrawals have been completed in Oct-Nov 1995. These withdrawals arc without prejudice to the respective positions of India and China on the alignment of the Line of Actual Control in the area.

The two sides also discussed some other issues including matters relating to the clarification of the Line of Actual Control and Confidence Building Measures.

Electrification of Railways

1791. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to electrify Railways throughout India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINJSTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): Electrification of railway tracks on Indian Railways is a continuous process. Electrification projects are capital intensive. These are undertaken on techno-ccqnomic merits and operational requirements on a net work basis. As at present, there is no proposal for lectrification of entire Railways net work throughout the country.